

[Sample Letter to Governor Brown]

[Place on your letterhead or include your address block]

[INSERT date]

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 639 (Pérez) - Request Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of **[INSERT name of your organization]**, I respectfully request your signature on AB 639 (Pérez), which would ask voters to repurpose \$600 million in general obligation bond authority from 2008's Proposition 12 to create multifamily affordable and supportive homes for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This shift would better serve the housing needs of all veterans, would prevent and end homelessness for thousands of veterans, all while creating jobs and furthering voter intent.

California is home to more veterans than any other state, almost two million. Unfortunately, too many of those veterans cannot afford the high costs of housing in California. In fact, California has the largest number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the nation; almost 25% of our nation's homeless veterans live in California. Because more than half of California's veterans have low incomes, many of our homeless veterans simply cannot afford a safe, decent apartment, even while working. These veterans can find themselves on our streets, sometimes for years, repeating a cycle of incarceration, emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and homelessness.

Homelessness costs our local governments. A single homeless Californian incurs \$2,897 per month in county costs for emergency room visits, inpatient hospital stays, arrests, and incarceration; 79% of these costs are curtailed when the same Californian finds an affordable place to live. Unfortunately, with funds from successful state housing bonds running dry and the complete elimination of redevelopment, the availability of state dollars to leverage federal funds and private investment to pay for these affordable places to live is the lowest it's been in years, even as the federal government is investing resources to end homelessness among veterans.

AB 639 would allow voters to decide whether to use \$600 million of existing bonds, passed by voters in 2008 to give veterans homeownership opportunities, to create affordable apartments for low-income veterans. While the voter-passed initiative failed to help a single veteran buy a home, AB 639 would generate thousands of affordable and supportive apartments for veterans who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. This investment will leverage about \$3 billion from federal and local public-private partnerships to create more apartments and put California on a path to ending homelessness among our state's veterans. In addition, the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Act would generate more than 30,000 jobs each year and help businesses employ veterans who once had no hope of a steady job, but will become employable once accessing a stable place to live.

Thank you for considering your views on this measure.

Sincerely,

[INSERT Your Full Name]

[INSERT Your Title (if applicable)]